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LB 62, 699, 760

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Brashear amendment, AM1946, Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the amendment and support of the bill in total. And particularly, I want to talk about the section that came out of LB 62. I touched on this a little bit yesterday when we were talking about the Attorney General's funding and making sure that we have competent prosecution and prosecution help, in particular out in the rural areas. And this is the other side of it. It is efficient, it is cost saving, when you have competent prosecution and also competent defense. It's our responsibility in these big cases to make sure that we do everything correctly. The Commission for Public Advocacy helps counties do that. They are active here in Lancaster County, and also in Douglas County. But for me, the help that they give in these large cases, like the one in Madison in county, and other places around the state, is just invaluable, so that we do a good job, that we have less appeals of court decisions, that we have competent counsel out there, not only prosecuting but also when we have to supply that defense for an indigent defense. So I very much appreciate the Judiciary Committee, Senator Mines and Senator Brashear, putting this package together. I think the other components of the bill are very important also. The education of judges in this complicated era is very, very important. So I am in support of this current amendment. The LB 699 section that is for mediation and dispute resolution is, I think, a real jewel in Nebraska, and one that's becoming even more evident as to how it can save both litigants and the courts money. And so I'm in very strong support of that section of the bill too. And I want to thank Senator Brashear for bringing this.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Wehrbein on the amendment to the Judiciary Committee amendments to LB 760.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'd like to ask Senator Brashear a question.